

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined. Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant submits that the amended claims fully comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,479,638 to Assar et al. ("Assar").

A. Claim 1

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, claim 1 recites that if changing of data of a data block recorded at an original address in a data area is requested, the data block having changed data is recorded in an alternative area. Furthermore, if changing of data of the data block recorded in the alternative area is requested, the data block having changed data is recorded back at the original address in the data area and the mapping information of the data block recorded in the alternative area is deleted from the mapping area.

Applicant submits that since the data block having changed data of the data block in the alternative area is recorded at the original address in the data area, the mapping information is

unnecessary and can be deleted. Applicant submits that Assar fails to teach or suggest recording updated data back at the original address again. Thus, in Assar, the mapping information cannot be deleted. For example, in column 4, lines 28-61, Assar discloses that when a document is to be saved on a computer, the document is stored in a mass storage system and is assigned a logical address. The mass storage system then selects a physical address of an unused block or blocks for storing the document. A map correlates the logical address to the physical address. When a user later retrieves the document and makes changes, the altered document is stored in a new block and the system updates the correlation between the logical address and the physical address. In column 4, lines 59-61, Assar discloses that the mass storage process is repeated until the storage is filled. There is no teaching or suggestion of recording an altered document back in an original block.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

B. Claims 2-4

Applicant submits that claims 2-4 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claims 5-7

Since claims 5-7 contain features that are analogous to the features discussed above for claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 5-7 are patentable over the cited reference for analogous reasons as claim 1.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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D. Claims 8-10

Applicant submits that claims 8-10 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

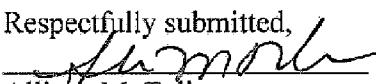
In addition, claim 10 recites a first and second mapping table recorded in respective pages of a first and second block. The Examiner maintains that column 4, lines 28-50 of Assar discloses the claimed features. However, Assar merely discloses the map, stored in the CAM 106, which correlates the logical address 308 to the physical address 408. Assar fails to teach or suggest the use of a first and second mapping table recorded in specific pages of blocks as set forth in claim 10.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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